



Food culture in Aruba

Americans divided over Israel response to Hamas attacks, AP-NORC poll shows

By CHRIS MEGERIAN and LINLEY SANDERS

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Americans have become more likely to describe Israel as an ally that shares U.S. interests and values since the war with Hamas began, but they're divided over whether Israel has gone too far in its response to last month's attack, according to a new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

The survey, which was conducted from Nov. 2 to 6, also reveals skepticism among Democrats toward Israel, which could present a challenge for President Joe Biden as he tries to balance support for the country's defense and his party's shifting priorities.

The result is a rather muddled picture that presents few easy options for the White House as it keeps one eye on public opinion with an election year on the horizon.



An Israeli mobile artillery unit fires a shell from southern Israel towards the Gaza Strip, in a position near the Israel-Gaza border, Nov. 6, 2023.

Associated Press
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Americans divided over Israel response to Hamas attacks, AP-NORC poll shows

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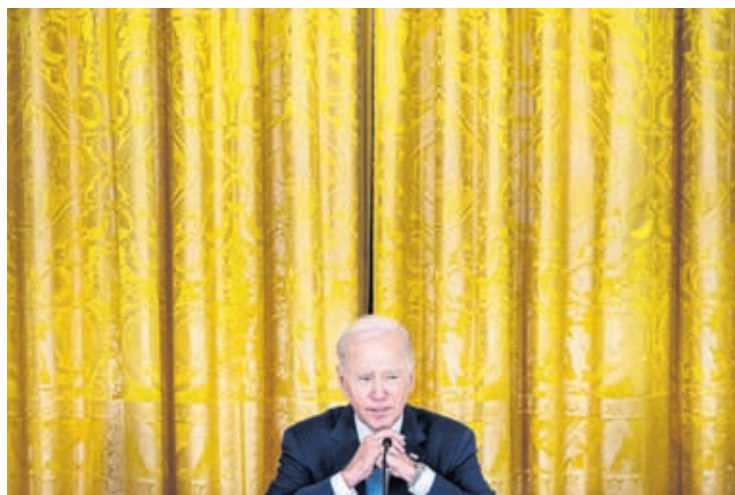
"It's just so complicated," said Carolyn Reyes, a 36-year-old Democrat in New York. "And I will not even pretend to understand the complicated nature of the relationship between the United States and Israel."

During an August poll, only 32% of Americans described Israel as an ally that shares U.S. interests and values. But that figure increased to 44% in the latest survey, which was conducted after the Oct. 7 attacks by Hamas that killed 1,400 Israelis.

However, only 36% said it's extremely or very important to provide aid to Israel's military to fight Hamas. And 40% of Americans said Israel's military response in the Gaza Strip has gone too far. The Health Ministry in the Gaza Strip, which is run by Hamas, said 10,000 Palestinians have died from weeks of Israeli bombardment and a recent ground invasion.

Reyes recalled hearing about the death toll on the news and thinking "it seems so high, I thought that can't be right."

Four thousand children have died in Gaza, according to the Health Ministry there, and Reyes said "that's the line that's too



President Joe Biden speaks at the inaugural Americas Partnership for Economic Prosperity Leaders' Summit with leaders from the Western Hemisphere at the White House, Friday, Nov. 3, 2023, in Washington.

Associated Press

far."

It's a sentiment more common among Democrats, 58% of whom view Israel's counterattack as excessive.

Overall, 38% of Americans said Israel's response has been about right, and just 18% said it has not gone far enough.

Complicating the situation is Americans' interest in balancing several foreign policy goals simultaneously. About 6 in 10 believe it's extremely important or very important for the U.S. to help recover hostages held by Hamas in Gaza, while roughly half said the same thing about preventing harm to Palestinian civilians or providing humanitarian relief in the territory.

Nearly two thirds of Americans (63%) disapprove of how Biden is handling the conflict between Israel and Hamas, while only one-third approve. That's in line with his overall job approval: 60% of US adults disapprove of the way Biden is handling his job as president, while 38% approve.

Robert Byrd, a 50-year-old Democrat in Virginia, said he's glad to see Biden supporting Israel.

Back in World War II, when the Holocaust occurred, "the United States waited too long to help out the Jewish community," he said. "I think we've learned from our mistakes of our past. It's wonderful that we have a president that's willing to step up and do the

right thing."

Byrd said he'll remain satisfied with Biden's handling of the situation "as long as we don't have boots on the ground over there," and he's comfortable with Israel's response to Hamas' attack.

"Israel is trying to keep its independence," he said. "They're doing what they should probably do to keep their independence." Such sentiments are less common among younger voters like Sean O'Hara, an 18-year-old in California. He said he's registered to vote but not with a political party.

"Funding a war like this isn't really in line with my beliefs," he said. "I think staying out of it is the better option."

O'Hara was concerned about supporting Israel because "they're colonizing all of Palestine and they have been for many years."

Although there was initially sympathy among people he knows for Israel after the Hamas attacks, O'Hara said, that shifted once "people were like, there's a history here."

Israel gained control of the Palestinian territories of West Bank and Gaza during the Six Days War in 1967. The West Bank remains under military occupa-

tion. Israel withdrew from Gaza in 2005 but instituted a blockade when Hamas took control, and there has been sporadic fighting for years.

Americans pin blame for the current conflict on Hamas, which the U.S. government considers to be a terrorist organization. About two-thirds of Americans (66%) said Hamas has a lot of responsibility for the war, while 35% said the same about Israel.

Aaron Philipson, a 64-year-old Republican in Florida, said he's disappointed by Biden's approach to the war.

"He's not taking a proper stand," he said. "He seems to be trying to dictate policy to Netanyahu, and Netanyahu doesn't seem to be having any of it," he said, referring to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

"I've never seen the anti-Israeli sentiment so high," Philipson said. "It's awful what's going on right now." About half of Americans (52%) say they are extremely or very concerned that the recent war between Israel and Hamas will increase prejudice against Jewish people in the United States. About 4 in 10 share the same concern about prejudice against Muslim people (43%).



Travelers await at the departure counter at the United Airlines terminal at Los Angeles International Airport, Wednesday June 28, 2023, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Associated Press

Air travel is getting worse, judging from the number of consumer complaints.

Consumer complaints about airlines nearly doubled in the first three months of this year compared with

Judging from the level of complaints, air travel is getting worse

the same period last year and kept soaring in April and May, the U.S. Transportation Department said Wednesday.

Those are the latest figures from the government. The Transportation Department said information about complaints has been delayed because there are so many of them to process.

The department said it received 24,965 complaints about airline service in the first three months of the year, up 88% from the first quarter of 2022. Consumers

filed another 6,712 complaints in April, up 32% from a year earlier, and 6,465 in May, an increase of 49%.

The Transportation Department said that disability-related complaints, such as delaying or damaging wheelchairs, are also up from last year. There were 636 such complaints in the first quarter, nearly double the 380 filed during the same period of 2022. The agency says it investigates each of those disability complaints.

The department is investi-

gating "several domestic airlines" for possibly offering flight schedules that they are unlikely to be able to perform, it said.

Southwest Airlines disclosed last month that federal regulators notified the airline that it could be subject to a fine for not providing enough help to travelers who were stranded last December when a service meltdown caused nearly 17,000 canceled flights. Southwest said it couldn't estimate the amount of any fine.

Governors call for more funds to secure places of worship as threats toward Jews and Muslims rise

By JOEY CAPPELLETTI

Associated Press

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — A Democratic group of governors led by Michigan's Gretchen Whitmer have joined national leaders in calling for an increase in funding for security at places of worship as concerns grow over threats against Jewish and Muslim communities sparked by the Israel-Hamas war.

Governors of 10 states and the territory of Puerto Rico sent a letter Wednesday, first obtained by The Associated Press, that was addressed to leaders in both chambers of the U.S. Congress. It calls for an increase in funding to the federal Nonprofit Security Grant Program, which is set to give \$305 million this year to nonprofits to help secure their facilities against potential attacks.

"My fellow governors and I are calling for an increase to the federal Nonprofit Security Grant Program so we can help keep people safe amid rising threats and violence targeted towards Jewish, Muslim, and Arab communities and houses of worship," Whitmer said in a statement.



Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer speaks to United Auto Workers members at a rally, Sept. 15, 2023, in Detroit.

Associated Press

The letter echoes calls from other national Democrats to increase the program's funds to address concerns over potential hate crimes motivated by the Israel-Hamas war. President Joe Biden asked for an additional \$200 million for the security grant program in a supplemental budget request last month.

U.S. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said on

social media Monday that he was asking for an additional \$1 billion for the grant program to "counter acts of hate targeting places of worship and gathering like schools, religious community and senior centers," and more. Other U.S. senators, including Nevada's Jacky Rosen, have made similar requests.

In addition to Whitmer, the letter was signed by Demo-

cratic governors in Wisconsin, North Carolina, New Mexico, New York, New Jersey, Minnesota, Colorado, Louisiana, Maryland and Puerto Rico. They asked for "swift consideration" of the funding increase "in light of ongoing concerns within our states and territories." The letter cites the fatal stabbing of a 6-year-old Muslim boy in Chicago and a man arrested in

Michigan after saying he wanted to hunt Palestinians as examples of the rising hate crimes related to the Israel-Hamas war. The increased fears of violence follow a familiar pattern of crimes against Jewish and Muslim communities rising when conflict erupts in the Middle East and Americans have been killed or taken hostage.

"Vigilance comes at a cost, and we must ensure our constituencies who are threatened by violence have the robust supports they need to stay safe," the letter says. "We must secure the safety of our homeland, especially at its heart — where people gather to find comfort and identity in their faiths, cultures, and beliefs." In its annual report released last month, the FBI estimated hate crimes increased by 7% to 11,634 cases in 2022 compared to the previous year. With 1,124 incidents, anti-Jewish attacks were the second-most reported hate crime, after anti-Black cases. There were 158 reported incidents of anti-Muslim attacks and 92 reports of anti-Arab cases, according to the report. □

Governors call for more funds to secure places of worship as threats toward Jews and Muslims rise

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Associated Press

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"swift consideration" of the funding increase "in light of ongoing concerns within our states and territories." □

Massachusetts to begin denying shelter beds to homeless families

By STEVE LeBLANC

Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — The number of homeless families seeking emergency shelter in Massachusetts is nearing a 7,500-family threshold, past which Democratic Gov. Maura Healey says the state can no longer accommodate them and will instead place families on a waitlist, prioritizing those with the highest needs.

Healey has said she doesn't want to see families out on the street but that the state has essentially reached its shelter capacity. The spike in demand is being driven in part by a surge of migrant families entering the state. Massachusetts joins other locales struggling under an influx of migrant families seeking shelter. New York City Mayor Eric Adams has announced he is limiting shelter stays for migrant families with children to 60 days. In Chicago, officials have looked to relocate migrants seeking asylum from police stations and the city's airports to winterized camps with massive tents.

On Wednesday, the number of families in emergency shelter in Massachusetts stood at 7,488.

Critics argue Healey's decision to cap shelter placements violates the state's "right-to-shelter" law. Under the four-decade-old law, Massachusetts is legally re-



Massachusetts Gov. Maura Healey, flanked by state House Speaker Ronald Mariano, left, and Senate President Karen Spilka, discuss the state's struggle to cope with a surge in homeless families, many of them new immigrants, seeking shelter, Monday, Nov. 6, 2023, at the Massachusetts Statehouse in Boston.

quired to provide emergency shelter to eligible families. Under Healey's plan, women, young children and those with acute medical needs and health issues will be given priority. The state is also considering limiting how long a family can stay in a shelter, Healey said.

With winter not far off, officials are scrambling to prevent families from ending up on street. A flyer the state has prepared to hand to families denied shelter sug-

gests a handful of options, the first being to "return to the last safe place you stayed." On Tuesday, Healey announced a \$5 million grant program to help local organizations create overnight shelter for families and pregnant individuals with no other options.

Massachusetts lawmakers are also weighing a bill to set aside \$50 million to set up one or more locations where homeless families could find temporary refuge

while they wait for a shelter space.

Democratic House Speaker Ronald Mariano said that could be a single large site like the Hynes Convention Center in Boston or smaller sites spread around the state.

"Where are these people going to go?" Mariano said Wednesday. "Where do they spend the night when they come in here on a Friday night at 7 o'clock? Are they just going to go di-

rectly to the (Boston) Common and bed down for the night?"

Healey has said she's pressing federal officials to speed up the process by which migrants can get work authorizations and ultimately exit the shelter system to free up more space.

Denying families emergency shelter could force some into unsafe living conditions, said Kelly Turley, director of the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless.

She and other homeless advocates have pressed the Legislature to approve money for a large living site similar to that described by Mariano.

"We're very concerned that after 40 years of having the right to shelter, that the administration is moving forward with their plan without making sure congregate shelter is available," Turley said.

Advocates welcoming new migrants to the state say they're concerned about how to help those with no friends or family and nowhere to stay.

"When people come, especially those with babies, do we send them to the street?" said Gerald Gabeau, executive director of the Immigrant Family Services Institute in Boston. "We are not sending them to the street, so we need a place to send them." □



Community members gather Thursday, Nov. 2, 2023, during a candlelight vigil in Auburn, Maine.

By PATRICK WHITTLE

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — Maine's government is going to cover the cost of funerals for families who lost loved ones in the deadli-

est mass shooting in the state's history, the office of Gov. Janet Mills said Wednesday. An Army reservist opened fire inside a bowling alley and a bar in Lewiston, the second larg-

Maine looks to pay funeral costs for families of mass shooting victims

est city in the state, on Oct. 25. The shootings killed 18 people, wounded 13 and sent the city into a lockdown until the man's body was discovered two days later. He died of a self-inflicted gunshot. Funerals for victims of the shootings began late last week. The administration "is working to ensure that the families of victims do not have to bear any financial costs for the funerals of their loved ones," said Ben Goodman, a spokesperson for the Democratic governor. The state is getting the money

from a victim's compensation program run through the attorney general's office, and supplementing it with money from the governor's contingent account, Goodman said.

The shootings rocked the state, which is well known for high levels of gun ownership and low levels of violent crime. The victims included a shipbuilder, a sign language interpreter and a 14-year-old bowler and his father. The state's deaf community was hit especially hard by the shooting and lost four members.

The Lewiston community is grieving two weeks after the shooting took place, and other cities and towns around Maine have offered an outpouring of support. Signs that say "Pray for Lewiston" and "Lewiston Strong" are common in Portland, the largest city in the state, located 35 miles away. Lewiston was also visited by President Joe Biden last week. Three injured patients remained in stable condition at Central Maine Medical Center on Tuesday, representatives for the hospital said. □

Putin calls for closer Russia-China cooperation on satellites and weapons

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian President Vladimir Putin told a senior Chinese military official Wednesday that Moscow and Beijing should expand their cooperation on military satellites and other prospective defense technologies—a statement that signaled increasingly close defense links between the allies.

Putin spoke in televised remarks at the start of his meeting with Gen. Zhang Youxia, who is China's second-ranking military official and vice chairman of the Central Military Commission. The Russian leader emphasized the importance of developing closer military links, noting that cooperation in high-tech spheres now takes priority. "I mean space, including high-orbit assets, and new prospective types of weapons that will ensure strategic security of both Russia and the People's Republic of China," Putin said without elaboration.

He emphasized that while "Russia and China aren't building any military alliances based on Cold War patterns," their cooperation is a "serious factor in stabilizing the international situation."

Putin has previously said that Russia has been sharing highly sensitive military



Russian President Vladimir Putin speaks to Gen. Zhang Youxia, vice chairman of China's Central Military Commission during a meeting at the Novo-Ogaryovo residence outside Moscow, Russia, Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2023.

Associated Press

technologies with China that helped significantly bolster its defense capability.

In October 2019, he mentioned that Russia was helping China to develop an early warning system to spot ballistic missile launches — a system involving ground-based radar and satellites that only Russia and the U.S. had.

Beijing declared last year that it had a "no-limits" friendship with Russia. China has denounced West-

ern sanctions against Moscow, and accused NATO and the United States of provoking Russia's military action in Ukraine even as it tried to project itself as neutral in the Ukrainian conflict. Russia, in turn, has continuously voiced support for Beijing on issues related to Taiwan.

Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping have developed strong personal ties to bolster a "strategic partnership" between the former Communist rivals as

they both face soaring tensions with the West.

Xi visited Moscow in March to further cement ties and Putin traveled to Beijing last month for a summit of China's Belt and Road infrastructure initiative.

Putin asked Zhang to again convey his thanks to Xi for a warm welcome, noting that they have "very friendly personal ties" contributing to the development of Russia-China relations.

Russia and China have held a series of joint war games

in recent years, including naval drills and patrols by long-range bombers over the Sea of Japan and the East China Sea. Russian and Chinese ground forces also have deployed to the other country's territory for joint drills.

Speaking to Zhang, Putin noted that NATO has sought to expand its reach to the Asia-Pacific region, in what he described as "an attempt to go beyond its geographic sphere of influence."

"The U.S. has increasingly drawn the alliance members into inciting tensions in the Asia-Pacific region and tried to create new military-political alliances, including countries of the region, proceeding from its own egoistic interests," he said.

He added that Russia and China were responding in a "calm and balanced way" and work to strengthen their security with joint air force and navy drills.

Zhang hailed Moscow for resisting Western pressure, saying that "the Russian Federation under your leadership is standing firm in the face of Western sanctions, showing that you and Russia won't be bent by any difficulties." "The Chinese side expresses its respect for you for this," he said. □

Cambodia deports 25 Japanese nationals suspected of operating online scams

By **SOPHENG CHEANG**

Associated Press

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia

(AP) — Twenty-five Japanese nationals suspected of involvement in a cyber-scam operation based in Cambodia were deported to Japan on Wednesday, said Gen. Khieu Sopheak, a spokesperson for Cambodia's Interior Ministry.

The Japanese government arranged a charter flight to transport the suspects, who were detained in September after Cambodian police received a tip-off from their Japanese counterparts, he told The Associated Press.

The 25 were arrested in the capital, Phnom Penh, according to Gen. Keo Vanthan, a spokesperson for the immigration police.

Khieu Sopheak thanked the Japanese government "for their support and good cooperation with the Cambodian government in order to arrest these people." Cybercrime scams have become a major issue in Asia.

In August, the U.N.'s human rights office said that criminal gangs have forced hundreds of thousands of people in Southeast Asia into participating in unlawful online scam operations,

including false romantic ploys, bogus investment pitches and illegal gambling schemes.

The Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights in a report cited "credible sources" saying that at least 120,000 people in strife-torn Myanmar and roughly 100,000 in Cambodia "may be affected." The report sheds new light on cybercrime scams that have become a major issue in Asia.

In April, 19 Japanese nationals suspected of participating in phone and online scams were similarly deported from Cambodia to



A Cambodian police man directs traffic as a convoy of police vehicles that was reportedly carrying Japanese citizens who were taken into custody on suspicion of running phone scams moves along a street on their way to Phnom Penh International Airport in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on April 11, 2023.

Associated Press

their homeland. They had been arrested in the southern city of Sihanoukville, which is notorious for cyber-crime scams.

Such scams became a major issue in Cambodia last year, when there were numerous reports of people

from various Asian countries and further afield being lured into taking jobs in Cambodia. However, they often found themselves trapped in virtual slavery and forced to participate in scams targeting people over the internet. □

Pakistan says nearly 25,000 Afghans waiting for visas to U.S. won't be deported

By MUNIR AHMED

Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan's prime minister on Wednesday sought to reassure thousands of Afghans waiting in Pakistan for resettlement in the United States that they won't be deported as part of his government's widely criticized crackdown on undocumented migrants in the country.

Islamabad has launched a crackdown on illegal migration, saying any unregistered foreign national and migrant lacking proper documentation would face arrest and deportation. The drive mostly affects Afghans because they are the majority of foreigners living in Pakistan, although the government says it's targeting all who are in the country illegally.

At least 25,000 Afghans — who had worked for the American military or government, international organizations and aid agencies, as well as media and human rights groups — escaped the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in 2021 to Pakistan and are waiting to be processed to relocate to the U.S.

Pakistani authorities said they have received a list with their names from U.S. officials.

Pakistan has long hosted about 1.7 million Afghans, most of whom fled during the 1979-1989 Soviet occupation. In addition, more than half a million people fled Afghanistan when the Taliban seized power in the final weeks of U.S. and NATO pullout.

U.S. Embassy spokesman Jonathan



Afghan refugees settle in a camp near the Torkham Pakistan-Afghanistan border in Torkham, Afghanistan, Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023.

Associated Press

Lalley said Washington was in close and constant communication with the Pakistani government on the safety of the individuals in the U.S. pipelines.

"Our key concern is the safety of vulnerable and at-risk individuals," he told The Associated Press on Wednesday, adding that it was "in both our countries' interest to ensure the safe and efficient resettlement of Afghan refugees and asylum seekers."

Pakistan's caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said in a televised news conference Wednesday that authorities would deport only migrants who are in the country illegally.

He stressed that 1.4 million Afghan

refugees live in Pakistan with "full respect and safety." As for the others, he said, "they cannot live in Pakistan for an indefinite period." He assured Afghans who have been waiting for more than two years for U.S. officials to process their visa applications that they won't be targeted. But his words are unlikely to bring much comfort to waiting Afghans who have to contend with economic hardships and lack of access to health, education and other services in Pakistan.

Kakar said more than 250,000 Afghans have returned to Afghanistan since the crackdown was announced.

Hours later, Zabihullah Mujahid, the

spokesman for the Taliban government said in a statement, "the Islamic Emirate wants peace and stability" in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

He called on the Pakistani government to "solve their own domestic problems and not to blame Afghanistan for their failures," referring to repeated accusations that militants targeting Pakistan were using Afghan territories to hide.

The Taliban-led government next door has set up a commission to deal with repatriated nationals and has criticized Islamabad's actions. Many Afghans who have gone back lack water, food and shelter once they cross the border, aid groups say.

Pakistan's anti-migrant crackdown came as attacks surged on Pakistani security forces and civilians. Most have been claimed by the Pakistani Taliban, the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan or TTP, a separate militant group but a close ally of the Afghan Taliban.

Kakar demanded the Taliban hand over Pakistani militants involved in attacks inside Pakistan and dismantle TTP training centers and hideouts in Afghanistan. He added that he hoped the Taliban would stop the TTP from using Afghan soil to launch attacks on Pakistan.

Since the Taliban takeover, "unfortunately there has been a 60% increase in terrorist attacks and a 500% rise in suicide attacks in Pakistan," Kakar said, expressing regret over the lack of a "positive response" from the Taliban. □



A migrant holds a photo of Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador that reads in Spanish: "The lives of migrants also matter" as their caravan stops to block the highway in Huixtla, Mexico, Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2023.

Associated Press

By ÉDGAR H. CLEMENTE

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP)—About 3,000 migrants from Central

America, Venezuela, Cuba and Haiti on Wednesday blocked traffic on one of Mexico's main southern

Caravan of 3,000 migrants blocks highway in southern Mexico

highways to demand transit or exit visas to reach the U.S. border.

The caravan of migrants set out on foot from the city of Tapachula, near the Guatemala border, on Oct. 30, walking north toward the U.S.

The contingent, including many women and children, later stopped walking at Huixtla, another town in the southern state of Chiapas, where they tried to get temporary travel documents to cross Mexico.

On Wednesday, the migrants blocked highway inspection booths just out-

side Huixtla.

Activist Irineo Mújica, one of the organizers of the march, said the blockade would continue, because migrants are afraid of criminals, smugglers and extortionists who could prey on them if they continue walking. Many migrants would also prefer to take buses, but are often prevented from doing so if they don't have papers.

"We know we are causing discomfort for Mexicans, and we apologize," Mújica said. "But the drug cartels are kidnapping us, killing us."

Honduran migrant Herson Fernández was traveling with his wife and three children; sobbing, he said they had run out of money.

"They (authorities) won't give us an answer, they won't give us documents," Fernández said. "The idea is to get to the United States because there is a better future for the children, the truth is that we are doing it for them."

But the Mexican government's Refugee Aid Commission issued a statement late Tuesday pointing out that it does not issue transit visas. □



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The district of Savaneta

A quick history guide to the island's first capital

(Oranjestad)—Before Oranjestad became the island nation's capital, Aruba's first capital was the district of Savaneta. Here is where the cultural identity of Aruba was born, and from where the rest of the island developed into what it is today.

Savaneta is said to have been the first place where the Caquetio inhabitants first stepped foot on the island. Though there isn't hard evidence to back this up, but considering the legend of the Cacique Arua, it is believed that there were already movements on Aruba—and Savaneta—around 88 AD.

The Caquetios probably made their way to the island either from Venezuela, Colombia or other Caribbean islands in the region, but with good weather it was relatively easy for them to travel back and forth in their canoes. So, since the Caquetios discovered the island, Aruba found her first form of civilization.

It wasn't until 1499 when Aruba met another group of people who set foot on the island: the Spanish explorer Alonso de Ojeda. De Ojeda first took notice of Aruba off the coast of Venezuela, during his exploration of the Latin American country. This was on August 9th, 1499. However, de Ojeda didn't actually sail to the island till 4 days later, on August 23rd, 1499. This was the beginning of



the Spanish era on Aruba (1499-1636).

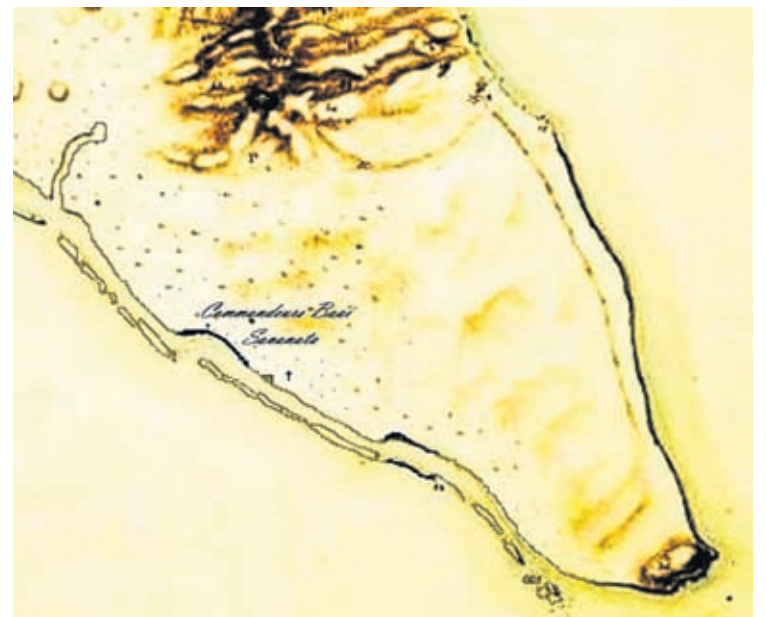
Alonso usually didn't stop at every island or land he saw, especially not in the Caribbean. He would often take notice of land from afar and continue sailing. However, Aruba was an exception. He had heard that there were "quebracho" trees on the island, which were commonly used to produce dye or paint. But since these trees could not be found in Savaneta, he continued to search in the area of what is now known as Santa Cruz. The best way to transport the tree barks was via a route pass-

ing through Savaneta, and so the first road between Savaneta and Santa Cruz was made.

The Dutch colonial era (1636-1805)

During the 80-year war between The Netherlands and Spain, Dutch explorers and merchants began to travel to the ABC islands. Once they landed in Aruba, they deported the small Arawakan and Spanish community that was living on the island. This was the beginning of colonization of the ABC islands by the Dutch empire. Around the same, the West Indian Company (WIC) was born. Bonaire and Curacao were mostly used for plantations, where the Dutch had transported slaves from Africa. Aruba, on the other hand, was mostly used to raise cattle and to house the haring factory. The Dutch had often forced the indigenous community to work for them.

In 1636, when the Netherlands won the war against Spain, the country surrendered the islands to the Dutch.



The Dutch administration appointed the island's first commander, an Irish man named N. Williams. Because the Dutch were interested in other Caribbean islands and countries in South America, they imported Dutch merchants and business men, all of whom resided in Savaneta. This way, Savaneta officially became the island's first capital.

However, at the end of the 18th century, the commander at the time, J.R. Lauffer, moved his office to what is now "Horse Bay" in Oranjestad. Because the highest office on the island moved away from Savaneta, the capital lost its title to what was called then Playa.

How Savaneta got its name

The name Savaneta probably has a Spanish origin. It was said that when the Spanish climbed a hill

called Yara, they saw that the area was mostly open and had no big trees. In Spanish, such a land area is called a "sabana".

Because of its land surface, Savaneta was a great place to construct cattle farms. From here, the farmer culture on Aruba was born. Before the Aruban Gold Rush and the construction of the Refinery in San Nicolas, most residents were farmers, and Savaneta had many inhabitants that farmed fruits and vegetables. They also continued the tradition of raising cattle, like goat, sheep, pigs and horses. Savaneta was one of the first places on the island to have a general farming culture. From this culture, many other traditions were born, like the Dera Gay Holiday that we celebrate every year on June 24th.

Source: *Historia di Savaneta (History of Savaneta)* by Adolf "Dufi" Kock.

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Papiamento words and phrases you may want to know!

(Oranjestad)—Aruba is a potting melt of different nationalities, cultures and languages. Primarily for this reason, the average Aruban can understand and speak Dutch, English and Spanish relatively well. However, as much as we pride ourselves in being able to communicate with almost everyone, we cherish our native tongue Papiamento above all else. Want to learn some common words in our language? Here are a few basic words and phrases that can get you a hat tip from an Aruban.

When you arrive at the airport in Aruba, one of the first words in Papiamento you may encounter is "Bon bini." Bon bini in Papiamento means welcome, and is probably the most famous Papiamento word for tourists.

Hi! Bye!

To be fair, there is no unique way to say "hello" in Papiamento. At least, not officially. We often just use the English "hello" or "hey", or Dutch "hallo" to greet someone. We do however, always follow it up with "con bay?" or "con ta?" Con bay is a shortened version of "con ta bay?", which essentially means "how are you?"

The word "con" in Papiamento means "how?" and is pronounced with a rounder "o" sounds, like in the English word "cone". "Ta bay" refers to how you are doing.



When we say goodbye, we use the word "ayo" (not like the Ayo Rock Formation, but also...kinda?). We may also use "te oro", which means "see you later".

Greetings during the day

Most, if not all, languages have different ways to greet according to the time of day, and Papiamento is no different. Since Papiamento is heavily influenced from Portuguese and Spanish, some of these phrases may look very familiar.

1. Bon dia is used in the morning, up to about noon. Bon dia essentially means good morning. The word "bon" means "good", and while "dia" does not directly mean "morning" in English, it is used often to refer to the morning time.
2. Bon tardi. In the afternoon to early evening hours, we use "bon tardi" to greet people,

which means "good afternoon". "Tardi" actually comes from the word "atardi", which directly translates to "afternoon". However, the shortened "tardi" is used to keep the rhythm on the phrase. And the same could be said for our last greeting of the day.

3. Bon nochi. You guessed it, "bon nochi" means "good night". Just like "tardi", "nochi" is actually the shortened version of the word "anochi".

Yes...no...maybe?

The affirmative and negative expression is very simple in Papiamento. Just like Spanish, our yeses are "si" and our no's are "no". Pretty easy right? If you want to gain some extra points from younger locals, you can also say "se", which is a more casual affirmative used mostly by the younger generation. However, do note: some older generations may find this improper and not respectful, so keep that in mind.

Thanks man...

Lastly, a word that we can also say more often is "danki", which means literally "thank you". "Danki" is derived from the Dutch word "bedankt". Though we don't really have a translation for "I appreciate it" in English, we do use "masha danki" to convey the message. "Masha" means "a lot" or "very", so "masha danki" means "thank you very much". □



ST. CRUZ — The national park Arikok comprises almost 18 % of the island. Its rugged terrain, desert-like hills filled with tall cacti, breathtaking coastline and protected local flora and fauna welcome you to be explored. There is numerous wildlife to discover like for example the sea turtle who lays his eggs on the park's beaches. There are more places on the island that are a preserved area like the Bubali Plas which is a bird sanctuary.

The national park Arikok takes you on a memorable journey of the islands past offering unique geological, cultural and historical sites. These can all be enjoyed and explored either on your own or during guided tours. A wide variety of educational and informative programs and fun

Aruba's Nature is to be Cherished

activities is available.

Did you know that four of the in total seven species of sea turtle lay their eggs on Aruba's beaches? In the national park, a Least Tern (*Sternula antillarum*) keeps a strict eye on a very special event taking place below on the beach: a majestic Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) heads back to sea after laying her eggs, while another nest laid 2 months ago by the same female hatches. A very rare occurrence of daytime nesting and hatching. Sea turtles prefer nesting in the cool and dark hours of the night. And hatchlings usually wait for the cue of cooling surface sand before emerging.

Bubali Magic

This beautiful close-up image of the pink bird is courtesy of Michiel Oversteegen of the Aruba Birdlife Conservation. This important foundation showcases and builds awareness of Aruba's birds and other native flora and fauna. You may have seen a 'pink cloud' lately at the Bubali or Spanish Lagoon Wetlands areas? It's most likely to be Roseate Spoonbills (*Ajaia ajaja*) or 'Chucharon Cora' as they are known in Papiamento. This unusual looking bird forages in shal-

low muddy water while sweeping its flattened bill from side to side to catch small fish, crustaceans and other aquatic invertebrates. The Roseate Spoonbill remains an uncommon sight as they are vulnerable to degradation of feeding and nesting habitats (Wetlands). (Source: arikok national park)

The aforementioned is just a part of what Aruba's nature has to offer. We cannot stress enough to go, see for yourself. The island has the most beautiful beaches but it is also worthwhile to go beyond this and get an idea of our entire island. Lately there is a discussion going on about the effect certain activities have on our nature, for example the ATV vehicles cause a lot of dust, noise and leave tire tracks. Animals live in these areas where the vehicles run, often with high speed and with detrimental consequences to flora and fauna. Motorized vehicles are forbidden to drive on the sand dunes in the Northern part of the island and all beaches in Aruba are forbidden for any motorized vehicle. Treasure our island to enjoy it like you do: as a tropical and natural paradise. We truly appreciate it! □

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Food culture in Aruba

Breakfast, lunch and dinner
The routine of breakfast, lunch and dinner on the island is one that does not completely follow a European or American routine, despite the major influences from these parts of the world on our culture and way of living. When it comes to the three important meals of the day, most of the Aruban population follows a Latin-American influenced routine.

Breakfast

Breakfast in Aruba is quite simple: a cup of coffee or tea, some bread, and sometimes an egg. Sometimes, due to the need of a quick "to-go" breakfast, you may also find many snack trucks and cafes that sell sandwiches, pastechis (meat pie), arepas and empanadas early in the morning.

Main Meal

The main meal is typically eaten in most households around noon or in the afternoon. This can consist of meat, fish, and chicken—stewed or fried—with funchi (polenta) or rice

with stewed vegetables. Often, fried or boiled plantain or pan bati (Aruban pancake) is included. Stews are a staple in Aruban cuisine and can be largely influenced by Latin-American and Latin/Afro-Caribbean Stews. Some of the more unique stews and soups from the ABC Islands* include sopi di bonchi cora (red kidney bean soup with pig tail), sopi mondongo (tripe soup), carni stoba (beef stew), comcomber stoba (West Indian gherkin stew) and much more.

Dinner Time

Dinner time can vary significantly from household to household. Unlike the U.S. or in Europe, dinner time typically does not consist of a whole (warm) meal. Instead, the evening "meal" can typically consist of something lighter, like a sandwich, though it is not uncommon to see leftovers from the main meal reheated and eaten again. Tea and coffee are often also served with the evening snack.

(Religious) Holidays

Christmas is probably the biggest global holiday, and every culture has its own spin on what their Christmas cuisine entails. In Aruba, our Christmas cuisine is again largely based on Latin-American influences, most notably from Venezuela. Ayacas and the famous pan di ham* are two crucial holiday dishes, along with stuffed turkey, roasted glazed ham topped with pineapples, arroz con pollo (rice and chicken) and potato salad, among other items. Traditional drinks include ponche crema (Aruban eggnog), chuculati pinda (hot chocolate with peanut butter), and homemade fruit punch. Desserts include bolo di pistachio (pistachio cake), bolo di cashupete (cashew cake), quesillo (flan), bolo preto (dark fruit cake), drigidek (gingerbread), pan boyo (bread cake) and more.

Snacks and tasty delights

Besides meals and dishes that are eaten on the dinner table, Aruba also has a food tradition that includes snacks and other tasty delights that you may easily find around the island. These include, Saco*, basket, pastechi, kroket, deditos, Johnny cake and more. These snacks are usually sold at local snack trucks and cafes, often located on the side of the road. In the area of Tanki Leendert and Tanki flip, for example, there are many of these trucks parked on the side of the road and often open until late at night—offering tasty and filling snacks post



night-life fun.

"bag". Saco contains fried potatoes, plantains, chicken (and ribs) and a Johnny cake, served in a paper bag.

*ABC Islands: Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao

*Pan di ham: Derived from the Venezuelan Pan de Jamon (rolled up bread with ham, raisins and olives)

*Saco: Saco literally means

Source: Voeding, voedingsgewoonten en gerechten op Aruba (Nutrition, Food Traditions and Dishes on Aruba) by Biblioteca Nacional Aruba



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Lessons from our elders: Plants and fruits for medicinal use (part 2)



(Oranjestad)— In last week's edition, we shared with our readers some medicinal use for plants and fruits, passed down from our elders through generations. This week, we present two more uses of fruits and plants for medicinal use.

Sweet potato

According to our elders, sweet potato is mostly useful for low blood pressure.

People who suffer from low blood pressure were advised to eat sweet potato 2 to 3 times a week. However, if you have high blood pressure, it is best not to eat too much sweet potato, as this raises blood pressure. Sweet potatoes are also great for people who work hard labor jobs, and it's been said to be aid blood circulation in the body, as well as help those with

hemorrhoids or diarrhea. Many of our elders opted to plant sweet potatoes themselves, mostly because of how easy it was to do so. Cut the end of a sweet potato let it sit in shallow water until it starts to sprout. Then you may plant it in the ground. Sweet potatoes need plenty of water to grow, especially in the first week in the ground. It was said that once you start to



notice the ground crack underneath the flowers, it is time to harvest. This should happen around month 3.

Pomegranate

Pomegranates are also one of the easier fruits to plant and harvest. Originated from Persia, this plant can grow almost everywhere. In Aruba, there are many homes that have a tiny or big pomegranate tree. You may be wondering what the difference is between a small and big pomegranate tree, for which the answer is based on harvest time. Tiny trees produce tinier pomegranates that can be harvested early on. Contrarily, big trees produce bigger pomegranates, but they need enough time to fully ripen before harvesting, otherwise you might end

up with bitter seeds. Pomegranate trees are also very easy to plant. In essence, if you just throw the seeds on the ground, they could grow into a tree.

In terms of medicinal use, pomegranate skins are said to have a few benefits for our health. According to customs, pomegranate skin tea can help those that suffer from diarrhea. Dried pomegranate skin tea is also good for people who have worms. Pomegranate flowers can be boiled to make a drink and this can be used for irritated gums; just take a swig and let the tea sit in your mouth for a couple minutes.

Source: Remedi i Kustumber di nos Bieunan (Medicine and Customs of our Elderly) by Dinah Veeris

Visit the natural bridges of Aruba!

(Oranjestad)—After you've visited the Alto Vista Church, the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins and the mini natural pool that is located right next to it, you're next up around the northern coast line must be the Natural Bridge. Once the largest natural bridge in the Caribbean, this bridge has been a tourist attraction for many years.

The bridge was formed during thousands of years, cut and crafted by the wild waves that crash into the coral stone walls of the coast. Before its collapse, this bridge measured 30 meters in length and 7 meters in height, making it the biggest natural bridge in the Caribbean at the time. For many years, this site was

also a frequently visited beach, as the bridge had a small opening through which the water would flow into the tiny beach.

Unfortunately in 2005, the bridge collapsed, and the little beach dried up. Despite this, this site remained a tourist attraction, with many visitors walking along the coral cliffs of the bridge to see the spectacular view of the northern coastline and the Caribbean Sea. Visitors can also still visit the souvenir shop on the left of the bridge entrance.

While the natural bridge no longer is functional, there is now a smaller natural bridge very close. This bridge is often called the "Baby Bridge" or "Daughter Bridge". □



Did you know about...

Basic driving rules on Aruba (part 2)

(Oranjestad)—In Yesterday's issue, we've provided some basic rules when driving on the four-lane highways and roundabouts on the island. Today, we want to offer you more tips and tricks when it comes to driving on the roads and highways of Aruba.

Speed limit in certain areas

As mentioned in yesterday's issue, the legal minimum and maximum speed limit on the island is 50 and 80 km/h respectively. However, there are some areas where it is mandated to drive up to a certain speed. This is always indicated by a circular traffic sign with red border and the number 50 on it. Signs like these are always paired

by a similar sign with the number crossed out further down the road. This means that the mandate for this speed is now over; you may increase your velocity. Red borders on traffic sign—whether it's a circle or triangle—usually signal a warning, prohibition or preference.

Besides the "50" sign, you may also

encounter a traffic sign that says "bebouwde kom". These can be found in San Nicolas and Oranjestad. Bebouwde kom signs are rectangular and blue, and essentially tell you that you are in a heavily inhabited area. The maximum speed limit in a bebouwde kom is 50 km/h. Just like the previous pair, bebouwde kom signs are also paired with a similar sign crossed out.

Priority signs

On the main roads of Aruba (not the highways), you may see a yellow, squared sign with a white border. This sign tells you that on this road, you have priority and all other traffic should yield to you. This sign can be seen in Savaneta for example. So, if you are driving on the main road in Savaneta going to San Nicolas, you are driving on a single long road, and other cars that want to get on this main road or cross it, either from an intersection or from a dirt road, must all wait until traffic on the main road is clear. In other words, you do not have to stop for them. This sign too has a counter part that indicates that your priority is over.

Another priority sign you may encounter is a triangle sign with a red border and something that looks like a cross. You'll see this sign in an intersection. The general rule of thumb for crossing an intersection that do not contain traffic lights, roundabouts, sign or arrows on the road, is to always yield for traffic on your right. However, if you encounter this sign on your side of the intersection, you have priority over the other cars, even the one on your right.

However, be careful not to confuse this sign with a similar up-side down triangle, also found on intersections. This sign is a prohibition sign, telling you that you have to stop and give other cars priority. Of course you also have a "stop" sign that mean the same thing. The stop sign is generally used for tricky intersections with minimal view of opposite incoming traffic.

These are some of the basic rules that you would have to know if you decide to drive on the island. These are of course other traffic signs, and we recommend you visit aruba-travelguide.com for an extensive overview of all traffic signs used on Aruba. □



bebouwde kom



end bebouwde kom



end priority



end speed limit



intersection priority



priority



speed limit



stop sign



triangle stop sign

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 PC brains
- 5 Beach robe
- 11 Michigan, for one
- 12 Serengeti setting
- 13 Certain something
- 14 Like some winter days
- 15 Fish food
- 17 Water cooler
- 18 Allergy sound
- 22 Tea additive
- 24 Knock
- 25 "Do — say!"
- 26 Pay stub line
- 27 Some carpets
- 30 Zodiac dozen
- 32 Comic strip unit
- 33 Thurman of film
- 34 Second-place winner
- 38 Lunchbox lunch, informally
- 41 Script bit
- 42 Writer Susan
- 43 Kind of palm
- 44 Calls

45 Shortly, in poems

DOWN

- 1 Thunder sound
- 2 One of the Beatles
- 3 European language
- 4 Spooky gathering
- 5 Let fly
- 6 Financially solvent
- 7 European language
- 8 Tether
- 9 Play part
- 10 Dissenter's vote
- 16 Piano part
- 19 European language
- 20 Sign
- 21 Makes a choice
- 22 Door fastener
- 23 Workplace watchdog: Abbr.
- 28 European language
- 29 Water channel
- 30 Nearest star
- 31 Staunton
- 35 Mysterious loch
- 36 "Do — others ..."
- 37 Hammer end
- 38 Try the tea
- 39 Cigar bit
- 40 Chinese leader

T	A	P	S	O	R	I	G	I	N
E	U	R	O	P	O	S	A	D	A
E	R	O	S	E	M	P	L	O	Y
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I	C	E	A	G	E	U	R	G	E
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Yesterday's answer

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11				12					
13				14					
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22	23				24				
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27			28	29	30	31			
32					33				
			34		35			36	37
38	39	40				41			
42						43			
44						45			

11-9

A X Y D I B A A X R
is L O N G F E L L O W

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's. X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

11-9

CRYPTOQUOTE

S U S Z H Z M S K C U S R S M R H M U
U P H U F Q G O A Q X F I S V V C Q U
H A Z Q O A M P Q V K Z U K O Q V S R F Q G
U H T K S U R O Q L H C Q U P K O J K O Z Q C ' Z
J V H U K . — X H Y K A H O O F

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: IF YOU WANT PEACE, YOU DON'T TALK TO YOUR FRIENDS. YOU TALK TO YOUR ENEMIES. — DESMOND TUTU

Citigroup discriminated against Armenian Americans; bank fined \$25.9 million



In this March 16, 2017, file photo, a customer enters a Citibank branch, in New York. Citigroup intentionally discriminated against Armenian Americans when they applied for credit cards, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau said Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2023.

Associated Press

By KEN SWEET
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Citigroup intentionally discriminated against Armenian Americans when they applied for credit cards, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau said Wednesday. The bureau said some bank employees argued internally that Armenian Americans were more likely to commit fraud and referred to applicants as "bad guys" or as affiliated with organized crime. The CFPB found that Citi employees were trained to avoid approving applications with last names ending in "yan" or "ian" — the most common suffix to Armenian last names — as well applications that originated in Glendale, California, where a significant portion of the country's Armenian-American population lives.

As part of the order, Citi will pay \$24.5 million in fines as well as \$1.4 million in remedies to impacted customers. The origins of the case come as a result of some organized crime syndi-

cates operating in Southern California that involve Armenian Americans. The leaders of the Armenian crime rings have been charged with identity theft and other financial crimes, including stealing COVID-19 financial relief funds in recent years.

Citi, based in New York, said a few employees were attempting to stop potential fraud due to this "well-documented Armenian fraud ring operating in certain parts of California" that often involved individuals running up credit card debts, then leaving the country.

However, in the bureau's order, these Citi employees used identifiable information that broadly discriminated against Armenian Americans in general.

"We sincerely apologize to any applicant who was evaluated unfairly by the small number of employees who circumvented our fraud detection protocols," the bank said in a statement. "Following an internal investigation, we have taken appropriate

actions with those directly involved in this matter and we promptly put in place measures to prevent any recurrence of such conduct."

In its investigation, the bureau found that Citi employees were instructed to single out applications that had Armenian last names, but then to conceal the real reason why those applications were denied. These employees knew they were running afoul of bank laws that prohibit discrimination against national origin, and kept any decisions off recorded phone lines or writing it down.

"Citi stereotyped Armenians as prone to crime and fraud. In reality, Citi illegally fabricated documents to cover up its discrimination," said Rohit Chopra, the director of the CFPB, in a statement. CFPB officials said the case involves "hundreds of individuals" who were impacted by Citi's discrimination, which is relatively small for a bank that has tens of millions of customers. However because the behavior was so egregious, the bureau's fine against Citi is relatively high compared to the number of people impacted.

The case involves Citi's significant co-brand credit card partnerships with Home Depot, Best Buy, American Airlines and others. It did not involve Citi's own branded credit cards. Under CEO Jane Fraser, Citi has been trying to overhaul its risk-management business across a firm that industry analysts still see as complicated and unwieldy, even 15 years after the financial crisis when Citi nearly failed. Fraser has spun off banking franchises in several countries, and has discontinued several lines of business.

But regulators continue to express concerns about how Citi manages its business. The bank has been fined or cited several times by the CFPB, as well as by the Federal Reserve, for unsound business practices. □

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Red hot October almost guarantees 2023 will be the hottest year on record



People sunbathe on Biarritz' beach, southwestern France, Oct. 7, 2023.

Associated Press

By **MELINA WALLING**
Associated Press

This October was the hottest on record globally, 1.7 degrees Celsius (3.1 degrees Fahrenheit) warmer than the pre-industrial average for the month — and the fifth straight month with such a mark in what will now almost certainly be the warmest year ever recorded.

October was a whopping 0.4 degrees Celsius (0.7 degrees Fahrenheit) warmer than the previous record for the month in 2019, surprising even Samantha Burgess, deputy director of the Copernicus Climate Change Service, the European climate agency that routinely publishes monthly bulletins observing global surface air and sea temperatures, among other data.

"The amount that we're smashing records by is shocking," Burgess said.

After the cumulative warming of these past several months, it's virtually guaranteed that 2023 will be the hottest year on record, according to Copernicus. Scientists monitor climate variables to gain an understanding of how our planet is evolving as a result of human-generated greenhouse gas emissions. A warmer planet means more extreme and intense weather events like severe drought or hurricanes that hold more water, said Peter Schlosser, vice president and vice provost of the Global Futures Laboratory at Arizona State University. He is not involved with Copernicus.

"This is a clear sign that we are going into a climate regime that will have more impact on more people," Schlosser said. "We better take this warning that we actually should have taken 50 years ago or more and

draw the right conclusions." This year has been so exceptionally hot in part because oceans have been warming, which means they are doing less to counteract global warming than in the past. Historically, the ocean has absorbed as much as 90% of the excess heat from climate change, Burgess said. And in the midst of an El Nino, a natural climate cycle that temporarily warms parts of the ocean and drives weather changes around the world, more warming can be expected in the coming months, she added. Schlosser said that means the world should expect more records to be broken as a result of that warming, but the question is whether they will come in smaller steps going forward. He added that the planet is already exceeding the 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) of warming since pre-industrial times that the Paris agreement was aimed

at capping, and that the planet hasn't yet seen the full impact of that warming. Now, he, Burgess and other scientists say, the need for action — to stop planet-warming emissions — is urgent. □

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Editor
Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.
Acc. #23951903
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

Editors
Pilar Flores
Richard Brooks
Angenette Figueroa

Sales
Mark Gomes
Sulaika Croes

Classifieds
classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection
accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website
Juan Luis Pinto

Weststraat 22
T: 582-7800
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W: www.arubatoday.com
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Gavin Rossdale celebrates 3 decades of Bush songs with a greatest hits album, 'Loaded'

By **MARK KENNEDY**

AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Putting together a collection of Bush's greatest hits was relatively easy. Convincing frontman Gavin Rossdale to do it was a bit harder.

"I never really wanted to do one because I always thought it was like a bit of a farewell, like a sayonara, a swan song," the lead singer and songwriter says. "And I couldn't be more swimming against that tide. I'm enjoying the music and the band so much that it feels like we never stopped."

Rossdale relented and that's why we have "Loaded: The Greatest Hits 1994-2023," a 21-song set that includes such Bush classics as "Glycerine," "Machinehead," "Comedown" and "Everything Zen."

"Every book, when you read it for a second time or a third time, you start seeing more details and start hearing it or reading in different ways. And so I hope it's a bit like that," says Rossdale. The collection includes hits from each of the band's nine studio albums, as well as a cover of the Beatles' "Come Together" that the band often plays live and had a very limited release in 2012. "They have a real big future ahead if



Gavin Rossdale, of the band Bush, arrives at the world premiere of "Captain Marvel" in Los Angeles on March 4, 2019.

Associated Press

they stick at it," Rossdale jokes about the Fab Four. It's an album that shows an evolution of sound from a band that was born during the heat of grunge but found its own musical way, from radio-friendly pop to heavy guitars to detuned, weirder stuff.

"It's a really easily accessible thing for people who are getting into Bush. There's kind of the blueprint, so to speak," says Rossdale, who will hit the road with Bush on headlining dates this November.

"It just made me feel nostalgic to look at those song lists and think of all those journeys. Songs are just like snapshots of time in our life, in my life. And so just seeing all that come together, it made me think of my whole history."

Rossdale started the Grammy Award-nominated band outside London in 1992 with guitarist Nigel Pulsford, joined later by bassist Dave Parsons and drummer Robin Godridge. The current lineup is Rossdale, Chris Traynor on

guitar, Corey Britz on bass and Nik Hughes on drums. Blessed with a heartthrob with high cheekbones as its lead singer, Bush's debut "Sixteen Stone" dropped eight months after Nirvana's Kurt Cobain's suicide in late 1994. The band went on to earn 23 Top 40 hit singles on the Modern Rock and Mainstream Rock charts, six of them making it to No. 1. "Loaded" — with underrated gems like "This Is War," "Bullet Holes" and "The Chemicals Between Us" — reminds listeners that

the band can veer from an U2-adjacent vibe to the metal-punk of Bring Me the Horizon.

"I always think there are too many songs in the world, but there's never enough great songs. That's always kind of the goal. I can't always achieve that, and obviously people have varying opinions whether I've ever achieved it, but that's the goal," Rossdale says.

Rossdale's manager requested one new song for the album to try to sum up the collection, and the band responded with "Nowhere To Go But Everywhere," a thoughtful look-back with the line, "I wish I knew myself better."

"It was a weird assignment because it was like trying to herd a rabble of spirited, rowdy dogs or something like that. How do you sum it up? These songs have really changed my life forever and given me a life," Rossdale says. "It was fun to write a song that could straddle all the records and not be sort of an outlier."

Choosing the hits was easy, but the new one makes Rossdale a little nervous: "We don't know if, ironically, that will be a hit. Could be the only non-hit on the greatest hits. You know, life can be cruel." □



Patrick Dempsey poses for photographers upon arrival for the premiere of the film "Ferrari" during the 80th edition of the Venice Film Festival, Aug. 31, 2023, in Venice, Italy.

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — He's not just "McDreamy" anymore — Patrick Dempsey is now also People magazine's Sexiest Man Alive. The "Grey's Anatomy" star

and race car driver takes the mantle from "Captain America" star Chris Evans, who was 2022's selection. The pick was revealed on "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" Tues-

Patrick Dempsey named Sexiest Man Alive by People magazine

day night.

"I've always been the bridesmaid!" Dempsey, 57, told the magazine about his initial reaction. "I'd completely forgotten about it and never even contemplated being in this position. So my ego is good." The actor stars in the upcoming Michael Mann film "Ferrari." He told The Associated Press last year that he did all the driving himself, calling it "the best role I've ever had."

Dempsey has driven in several professional races, including the 24 Hours of Le Mans, and is part of the

Wright Motorsports racing team, according to its website.

Dempsey said his three children are bound to tease him about his People magazine selection and "pick on me and figure out every reason why I shouldn't be." The People edition with Dempsey's cover story will be out Friday.

In addition to racing and acting, he founded the Dempsey Center, a Maine-based organization that provides care and resources for cancer patients, in honor of his late mother.

Dempsey achieved heart-

throb status as Dr. Derek Shepherd — nicknamed "McDreamy" — on "Grey's Anatomy," appearing in more than 250 episodes.

He plays Italian race car driver Piero Taruffi in "Ferrari," which arrives in theaters later this year. The film has received a waiver so that its stars can promote it without breaking rules in the ongoing actors strike.

Other Sexiest Man Alive recipients include Michael B. Jordan, John Legend, Paul Rudd, Brad Pitt, Harrison Ford and Mel Gibson, who was the magazine's first recipient in 1985. □

The officiating in the title game between LSU and Iowa was below expectations

By **DOUG FEINBERG**
AP Basketball Writer

The national championship game in women's basketball last spring was unforgettable for a lot of good reasons. LSU beating Iowa for its first title. A record television audience of nearly 10 million viewers. The spicy intensity between star players Angel Reese and Caitlin Clark.

The game will also be remembered for its controversial officiating and The Associated Press has learned that an NCAA review concluded the refereeing did not meet expectations.

The organization had planned a review of NCAA Tournament officiating after the 2024 championship concludes next April, but it was sped up by a year after criticism of the LSU-Iowa showdown.

NCAA vice president for women's basketball Lynn Holzman said the officials were graded on the accuracy of their calls and the overall accuracy number fell short.

"In the championship game itself, for example, we typically have a performance that I think is 91% historically," she said. "In that game, the percentage of correct calls was below that, around 88%. That's factually the case."



LSU's Angel Reese reacts in front of Iowa's Caitlin Clark during the second half of the NCAA Women's Final Four championship basketball game Sunday, April 2, 2023, in Dallas.

Associated Press

The NCAA did not provide the review or details to the AP, but an independent review of LSU-Iowa done by an official who did not participate in the game found the percentage of correct calls was much lower than 88%. (Out-of-bounds violations were not included as part of the independent analysis; it was unclear if they are included in the NCAA figure.)

According to the independent review, mistakes made during the game included a foul on Reese at the end of the first quarter that was her second

of the game. In the third quarter, two offensive fouls were missed, one on each team. Both resulted in video monitor reviews but neither ended up in penalizing the offensive player, said the official, who did the review for AP only on condition of anonymity because they feared the criticism could impact their career. The 88% correct call rate was on par with the rest of the 2023 NCAA Tournament, but not ideal for the most important game of the season.

"Officiating across the board is a concern for people," said North Carolina coach Courtney Banghart, president of the Women's Basketball Coaches Association who added that she hoped the findings would be shared with coaches. "Doing that assessment was a good step showing that they are trying to address it."

The NCAA review was conducted by the Pictor Group. It offered six observations and recommendations that include better education and training for

the NCAA women's basketball committee and sub-committee on officiating, selecting crews and assigning the referee and crew chiefs.

"They felt that the national officiating program is run with integrity and there's no question around any of that," Holzman said. "They identified areas we can be better."

The NCAA updated its rulebook over the summer. One change, had it been in place last year, would have impacted the title game:

Players now will no longer be charged with a technical foul for certain delay-of-game violations like the one given to Clark late in the third quarter because she didn't pass the ball to an official after a foul was called. Since it was the second delay-of-game violation for Iowa, Clark was charged with a technical — her fourth foul of the game. "Our committee is going to get a specific education about how we evaluate officials and this is what we're looking at," Holzman said. "The committee is going to be trained up." Holzman noted the review was only about the NCAA Tournament and that individual conferences govern their officials during the regular season. □

If you think the World Series sped by, it did. 9-inning games averaged the fastest time in 27 years

By **RONALD BLUM**
AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — If you think the World Series sped by, it did.

Nine-inning games averaged 3 hours, 1 minute, the fastest since 1996, according to the Elias Sports Bureau. The first postseason of the pitch clock also included defensive shift limits and larger bases, leading to increased stolen bases and appearing to contribute to higher batting averages.

"From what I've heard of people that pay attention to our games, it's re-

ally more interactive and the pitch clock is good for baseball," said first baseman Nathaniel Lowe of World Series champion Texas.

Postseason nine-inning games overall averaged 3:02, down from 3:23 last year and 3:37 in 2021, the last season before the PitchCom electronic pitch-calling device. That mirrored a regular season with an average game time of 2:40, the lowest since 1985. Just one postseason game topped 4 hours, when the Rangers beat Arizona in

an 11-inning World Series opener. Six of 40 postseason games exceeded 4 hours in 2022.

Three World Series games ended in under 3 hours, including the first consecutive games since 2006. The faster pace didn't help ratings, though. The Texas-Arizona showdown averaged 9.11 million viewers, making it the least-watched Fall Classic in TV history. MLB set the pitch clock at 15 seconds with the bases empty and 20 seconds with runners on base. Just seven pitch clock violations were



Texas Rangers' Marcus Semien holds the trophy as the Texas Rangers celebrate after winning Game 5 of the baseball World Series against the Arizona Diamondbacks Wednesday, Nov. 1, 2023, in Phoenix.

Associated Press

assessed in the postseason, an average of one per six games. There were none during the World Series. □

The NFL's youth movement at quarterback reaches a new milestone

By **JOSH DUBOW**
AP Pro Football Writer

The generational shift at quarterback in the NFL reached a new milestone last week.

For the first time ever, every player who threw a pass in the NFL in Week 9 was born in 1990 or later, with 15 of the 28 starting quarterbacks last week age 25 or younger.

The run of quarterbacks born in the 1970s ended with Tom Brady's retirement after last season. Injuries to Aaron Rodgers, Matthew Stafford, Kirk Cousins and Ryan Tannehill, and a bye week for Russell Wilson, kept the QBs born in the 1980s off the field last week. This was the first time since Week 6 of the 2002 season that no quarterback born



Houston Texans quarterback C.J. Stroud looks to pass against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers during the first half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Nov. 5, 2023, in Houston.

in the 1980s took the field. There were seven rookie starters last week — one shy of the non-replacement player record set in Week 16 of the 2019 season — with Arizona's Clayton Tune and Minnesota's Jaren Hall

getting their first career starts. That raised the total of rookie starting QBs this season to nine, tying the non-replacement record set in 2019.

The record for most starting rookie QBs since starts be-

gan being tracked in 1950 is expected to be set this week after Giants coach Brian Daboll said Tommy DeVito will get the start Sunday against Dallas following Daniel Jones' season-ending injury.

The youth movement at quarterback has played a role in the struggles on offense across the league in the first half of the season, with scoring at its lowest mark through nine weeks since 2007.

More than 70% of games so far this season have featured at least one quarterback age 25 or younger, with the 126 total starts by quarterbacks that young the most ever through nine weeks.

While many of the young QBs have struggled, Hous-

ton rookie C.J. Stroud has looked like a polished veteran. He threw for a rookie-record 470 yards in a comeback win over Tampa Bay last week with five TDs and no interceptions.

His 147.8 rating was the highest ever for a rookie with at least 30 attempts, and Stroud became the sixth player ever to throw for at least 450 yards with five TDs and no interceptions, joining Jared Goff, Peyton Manning, Donovan McNabb, Ben Roethlisberger and Y.A. Tittle.

HISTORIC PERFORMANCES

There were a few other notable performances from Week 9, including one that put New Orleans' do-everything tight end Taysom Hill in Hall of Fame company.

Hill caught his 10th career TD pass and threw his 12th in a win over Chicago to go along with the 26 he has on the ground. He became the first player since Hall of Famer Frank Gifford to record at least 10 touchdowns passing, rushing and receiving.

Gifford reached that milestone in 1957, while the only other players to do it reached those marks in the earlier days of the NFL, with Hall of Famers Charley Trippi, Red Grange and Jimmy Conzelman already in the club.

Minnesota's Joshua Dobbs did something that hadn't been accomplished since 1947 when he threw TD passes in his debut for the Vikings a week after doing the same for the Cardinals. Dobbs was the fifth player since 1947 to throw a pass for two teams in two weeks, according to Sportradar, and he joined Paul Gervani as the only ones to throw at least two TD passes in both games. Gervani did it for the Boston Yanks and the New York Giants.

Stroud's Texans teammate, Dare Ogunbowale, had another noteworthy performance. With Ka'imi Fairbairn injured, Ogunbowale came on in emergency duty and kicked a 29-yard field goal in the fourth quarter. □



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